

Minutes for the
COTS Gainsharing Partnerships Workgroup
Meeting on December 18

Members Present:

Rick Parks, Chair
Jan Fatouros
Keith Segerson
Andy Poarch

Members Absent:

David Molchany
Mike O'Neil

The meeting came to order at 10:00 am.

The workgroup approved the following mission statement that had been prepared by the chair:

"To explore and evaluate avenues in which state agencies, educational institutions, and local governments can strengthen current relationships and create new partnerships to increase collective productivity and realize greater effectiveness and efficiency."

The group next turned its attention to considering opportunities for collaboration.

At the outset, there was discussion of the need for a common architecture (at a minimum amongst the "central" agencies) in order to make it easier for government, at all levels, to enter into partnership arrangements. A common architecture would allow the Commonwealth to pursue scalable projects that could be simultaneously implemented at various levels of government.

The participants identified the need for the Commonwealth to take better advantage of its purchasing power by adding local governments and the colleges to the volume. The purchasing needs of the Commonwealth, as a whole, need to be better articulated. Jan provided an example that highlights the current lack of collaboration--DGS employees need to sign separate licensing agreements with Oracle in order to access information at DPS (Division of Purchases and Supply), DPT, and DOA.

In order to foster better communication, a proposal was discussed of creating IT workgroups in each Secretariat. Rick mentioned that the local government CIOs meet quarterly (or approximately so) on an informal basis. Rick said that in the past that Jerry Simonoff, acting as a representative for CIM's Local Government Advisory Committee, had attended those meetings.

Keith described for the members a concept being pioneered by the colleges that may be a worthwhile project for COTS to endorse and support. In theory, the concept would leverage the resources of state and local governments and higher education in a given region so that the various entities could provide support to the others in areas where they have strengths and where others may need assistance. Some examples of regional collaboration are regional data centers and help desks.

In terms of concrete next steps for the workgroup, the members agreed to develop a mechanism whereby "best practices" are identified and disseminated to state and local governments and higher education. A web page, either the Secretary's page or the COTS one, was discussed as the best dissemination vehicle. The workgroup would review incoming proposals and determine which ones should be posted on the web page.

Rick asked the members if they were familiar with the "Virginia Innovations Group" that is sponsored by the University of Virginia's Institute of Government. He suggested that this body might be able to assist with the collection and promotion of "best practices."

The final action item agreed upon was to take whatever necessary steps to better promote the Technology Fund administered by CIM.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the chair agreed to canvas the members for suitable future meeting dates.